

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claims**

1. (Currently amended) A process for the deprotection of an acetamidomethyl- (Acm), 4-methylbenzyl- (MBzl) and/or t-butyl- (tBu) protected thiol in the absence of a silyl chloride which comprises reacting said protected thiol with an acid in the presence of an oxidising agent at a temperature sufficient to effect deprotection and generation of disulphide bonds
2. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said acid is trifluoroacetic acid (TFA).
3. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said oxidising agent is dimethyl sulphoxide (DMSO).
4. (Previously Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein deprotection is effected using a TFA/DMSO mixture comprising 1 to 20% DMSO.
5. (Previously Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said protected thiol is present in a peptide.
6. (Previously Amended) The process as claimed in claim 5 wherein said peptide comprises at least two tBu protected thiols and/or at least two Acm or MBzl protected thiols.
7. (Previously Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein tBu protected thiols are deprotected at room temperature.

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8. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein Acn or MBzl protected thiols are deprotected at temperatures of ~~30°C or above~~ 30-50°C.
9. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 8 wherein Acn or MBzl protected thiols are deprotected at temperatures of ~~50°C or above~~ 50-70°C.